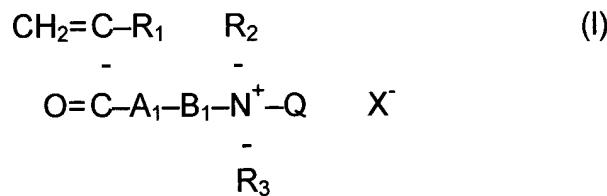


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Amended)** A process for the production of paper which comprises;
 - (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers,
 - (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aid comprising at least 0.001% by weight of a cationic organic polymer based on dry stock substance, the cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group;
 - (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 2.0 mS/cm, and a content of di- and multivalent cations of at least 200 ppm.
2. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 5.0 mS/cm.
3. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is a vinyl addition polymer comprising in polymerized form one or more monomers comprising at least one monomer having an aromatic group.
4. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.
5. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):



wherein R₁ is H or CH₃, R₂ and R₃ are each an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, A₁ is O or NH, B₁ is an alkylene group of from 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a hydroxy propylene group, Q is benzyl, and X⁻ is an anionic counterion.

6. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer has a weight average molecular weight of at least 1,000,000.

7. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture comprising from 5 to 20 mole% of cationic monomer having an aromatic group and from 95 to 80 mole% of other copolymerizable monomers.

8. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises anionic inorganic particles.

9. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are silica-based particles or bentonite.

10. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are aluminium-modified silica-based particles.

11. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer.

12. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer.

13. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises an aluminium compound.

14. **Previously Deleted.**

15. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension comprises recycled fibers.

16. **(Previously Amended)** The process of claim 1, further comprising obtaining a wet web of paper and white water from dewatering the suspension on the wire, recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 20 tons per ton of dry paper produced.

17. **(Original)** The process of claim 16, wherein less than 10 tons of fresh water is introduced per ton of dry paper produced.

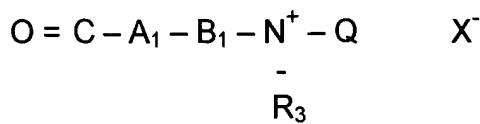
18. **(Previously Amended)** A process for the production of paper which comprises:

- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers;
- (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aid comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group;
- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire to obtain a wet web of paper and white water,
- (iv) recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 30 tons per ton of dry paper produced.

19. **(Original)** The process of claim 18, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.

20. **(Original)** The process of claim 18, wherein the cationic organic polymer comprises in polymerized form a cationic monomer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):





wherein R_1 is H or CH_3 , R_2 and R_3 are each an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, A_1 is O or NH, B_1 is an alkylene group of from 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a hydroxy propylene group, Q is benzyl, and X^- is an anionic counterion.

21. **(Previously Added)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a content of di- and multivalent cations of at least 300 ppm.

22. **(Previously Added)** A process for the production of paper which comprises;

- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aid comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group;
- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 2.0 mS/cm and obtaining a wet web of paper and white water, recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 20 tons per ton of dry paper produced.

23. **(Previously Added)** The process of claim 22, wherein less than 10 tons of fresh water is introduced per ton of dry paper produced.